

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

MC-02 L-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /059 W

----- 003387

R 041056Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4733

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1059

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN

SUBJ: GOS REQUEST PURCHASE OF FIVE LST'S AND 217 APC'S

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 787; B. SINGAPORE 1046; C. KUALA LUMPUR 1014

1. PERMSEC MINDEF PANG TEE POW CONTINUES TO PRESS DAO FOR FINAL GO-AHEAD ON SALE OF FIVE LST'S TO GOS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE GOS PLANS TO USE THESE LST'S TO TRANSPORT TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ACCELERATED OFFSHORE TRAINING PROGRAM. WE ALSO HAVE PENDING GOS REQUEST TO ACQUIRE EXCESS C-130'S AT REASONABLE PRICE. THIS REQUEST IS ALSO RELATED TO LIFT REQUIREMENTS REQUIRED FOR PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAMS IN TAIWAN, BRUNEI OR POSSIBLY ONE OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES.

2. WASHINGTON RESPONSE TO EMBASSY/DAO MESSAGES RE C-130'S HAS SO FAR BEEN NEGATIVE. IF IT NOW SEEMS PROBABLE THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE GOS WITH EXCESS C-130'S AT MODEST PRICE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD REPLY POSITIVELY TO REQUEST FOR ALL FIVE LST'S. IF WE PLAN TO ACCEDE TO REQUEST FOR C-130'S, WE SHOULD PROBABLY LIMIT SALE OF LST'S TO TOTAL OF THREE.

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3. WE NOTE FROM PARA 1 REF C THAT PROPOSED SALES DESCRIBED

REF A WOULD NOT HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MALAYSIA IN THE SHORT RUN. THE PROVISION OF FIVE LST'S DOES NOT AUGMENT GOS OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE AND IN OUR VIEW THEIR ACQUISITION BY GOS WOULD NOT HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT, ESPECIALLY IF WE DO NOT PROVIDE C-130'S.

4. EMBASSY/DAO IS STILL EXAMINING PROPOSED SALE OF 217 APC'S TO DETERMINE WHETHER ACQUISITION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH EMBASSY POSITION OUTLINED REF B. HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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